

SWIM Masters in Library and Information Science (MLIS) Scholarship Program

funded by the
Institute of Museum and Library Services

APPLICATION MATERIALS

The Idaho Commission for Libraries, the Montana State Library, the South Dakota State Library, and the Wyoming State Library instituted this scholarship program to provide financial support to eligible residents of the four states seeking a graduate degree in library and information science. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) wishes to provide support to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians. IMLS monies fund the scholarship.

APPLICATION AND SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS

The SWIM MLIS Scholarships are only available for the MLIS distance program at the University of North Texas (UNT). Scholarships will pay 80% of tuition and fees up to \$12,960.

Applicants must complete and submit **original and two copies** of the application form (page 3 below) and all required materials (detailed on page 4-5 below).

DEADLINE: All SWIM MLIS scholarship application materials must be postmarked by **March 15, 2010**.

In order to be eligible for a SWIM MLIS Scholarship, the applicant must:

- ❖ Be a resident of Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, or Wyoming
- ❖ Have a BA/BS degree completed prior to fall 2010
- ❖ Not be currently enrolled or not have been previously enrolled in any MLIS program since January 1, 2005
- ❖ Apply to and be accepted to the MLIS distance program at UNT and the SWIM cohort

All SWIM MLIS Scholarship recipients must:

- ❖ Use scholarship money only for MLIS tuition and course related fees
- ❖ Begin the UNT distance MLIS program in the fall of 2010 and complete the degree in summer 2012
- ❖ Take at least two courses per semester and a total of 36 UNT credits in the SWIM cohort
- ❖ Stay academically eligible, meet all UNT requirements including attendance at two cohort residencies held in the SWIM region
- ❖ Become a member of the state library association and attend the association's 2011 conference including special SWIM sessions
- ❖ Submit a final UNT transcript upon completion of the degree program
- ❖ Agree to work in an Idaho, Montana, South Dakota or Wyoming academic, public, school (K-12), special, or tribal library in a full-time professional librarian position for 24 months after obtaining the graduate degree. A professional librarian position is one having the title of librarian and in which the individual is paid for work that usually requires professional training and skill in the theoretical or scientific aspects of library work, or both, as distinct from its mechanical or clerical aspect.
- ❖ Upon becoming a professional librarian serve as a mentor for other library professionals, library staff, and individuals interested in library and/or information science as a career

Each state appointed a Scholarship Selection Committee to review applications received from residents of that state. Only complete applications will be forwarded to the Selection Committees for review. Criteria for reviewing and evaluating applications are found on page 6 below.

Each state's Selection Committee will award up to six scholarships for the MLIS distance program at UNT. An additional six scholarships will be awarded at-large by the SWIM Advisory Council. Notification of scholarship awards will be completed by April 30, 2010.

All applications must be typed. No faxed or e-mailed applications will be accepted. Incomplete applications will not be considered. A checklist of all required application materials is provided on page 6 for applicant use. All applications will be kept on file at Montana State Library, acting as SWIM project coordinator and fiscal agent.

Contact information and details for submitting SWIM scholarship applications are on page 6 below.

SWIM MLIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

Name _____ State of legal residency: _____

Present Mailing Address _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Email address _____

How did you learn about the SWIM MLIS Scholarship?

Promotional Ads _____ Colleague _____
Brochure _____ State Library _____
UNT Recruiter _____ University Career Center _____
Website _____ Other (Please describe) _____

Have you submitted your application to the distance MLIS program at the University of North Texas?

___ Yes ___ No

Priority will be given to applicants who are working full-time in a library position that meets the SWIM scholarship program employment requirement.

Do you currently work full-time in a library? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, what is your job title:

Please describe your current job duties and responsibilities:

Sex: ___ Male ___ Female

Ethnic background (optional): For reporting purposes only, we would appreciate indication of which of the following groups best describes your ethnic background.

___ American Indian or Alaskan Native	___ African American, Black
___ Asian or Pacific Islander	___ White, non-Hispanic origin
___ Hispanic	___ Other

**In addition to the application form, applicants are required to include the following materials
(described in 6 parts).**

All SWIM MLIS Scholarship applications must be typed. No faxed or e-mailed applications will be accepted. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Please include your name at the top of each page of your application and number all pages.

PART 1. EDUCATION AND WORK HISTORY

Submit your resume including academic and work history and contact information for places of employment. Your resume is limited to 2 pages.

PART 2. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STATEMENT

Summarize your participation in civic and/or campus activities and/or community service organizations in the past three years. Your Community Involvement Statement is limited to 300 words.

PART 3. ESSAY ON PURPOSE AND GOALS

Include a copy of the essay submitted with your UNT MLIS application on your purpose and goals in applying to graduate school, the nature of your interest in library education, how you became interested in the field, your short-and long-term goals, the strengths you bring to the information profession, and how the UNT program will help you meet your career/education objectives. Your Essay on Purpose and Goals is limited to 2 pages.

PART 4. ESSAY ON RURAL LIBRARY SERVICES

Submit an essay discussing why rural areas need library services and the importance of connectivity in rural areas. Focus on the type of library in which you are most interested in employment. Your Essay on Rural Library Services can be no longer than 2 pages.

PART 5. LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Three recommendations are required. You may use the recommendations submitted with your UNT application or you may use other letters of reference to support your scholarship application. If possible, one recommendation should be from a current or former employer.

PART 6. AGREEMENT

I have read and hereby accept the SWIM MLIS Scholarship application conditions that require me to:

- Be an Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, or Wyoming resident
- Have a BA/BS degree completed prior to fall 2010
- Not be currently enrolled or not have been previously enrolled in any MLIS program since January 1, 2005
- Apply to and be accepted to the MLIS distance program at UNT and the SWIM cohort
- Use scholarship money only for MLIS tuition and course related fees
- Begin the UNT distance MLIS program in the fall of 2010 and complete the degree in summer 2012
- Take at least two courses per semester and complete a total of 36 UNT credits in the SWIM cohort
- Stay academically eligible and meet all UNT requirements including attendance at two cohort residencies held in the SWIM region
- Become a member of my state library association and attend the association's 2011 association conference including special SWIM sessions
- Submit a final UNT transcript upon completion of the degree program
- Upon becoming a professional librarian serve as a mentor for other library professionals, library staff, and individuals interested in library and/or information science as a career

I agree that, upon completion of my graduate program, I will provide verification that I have obtained employment in an Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, or Wyoming academic, public, school (K-12), special, or tribal library in a full-time professional library position. A professional library position is one having the title of librarian and in which the individual is paid for work that usually requires professional training and skill in the theoretical or scientific aspects of library work, or both, as distinct from its mechanical or clerical aspect. Verification will include a letter from the employer verifying the position meets this criterion, a copy of the formal position description indicating education/experience requirements, and statement of number of hours worked.

I will work in an Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, or Wyoming library for 24 months after receiving my degree. Failure to do so requires that the scholarship be repaid in full (with interest) to Montana State Library acting as the SWIM project fiscal agent. If within six months of graduating I have not found employment due to unavailability of eligible positions or of eligible positions not being offered to me, I will contact Montana State Library to provide documentation that I was unable to find or was not offered suitable employment. At that time, the Montana State Librarian and SWIM Advisory Council will review the documentation and make a recommendation to the Montana State Library Commission about repayment of the scholarship.

I agree to provide the SWIM Advisory Council with written quarterly reports on my academic and employment status. I understand that these reports may be shared with state library commissioners and therefore become public record. I further agree to inform the SWIM Advisory Council of any academic or employment status change within 14 days.

I understand that my application will be reviewed by the Scholarship Selection Committee, appointed for the state in which I reside. I agree to accept the Scholarship Selection Committee's recommendations to the SWIM Advisory Council as final. I understand that my application will be kept on file at Montana State Library.

I understand that this award may be taxable and I am responsible for complying with current tax regulations.

If required, I agree to participate in an oral interview with the Scholarship Selection Committee. I understand that the Scholarship Selection Committees will not consider incomplete applications. I certify that all application information is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Printed Name of Applicant

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APPLICANT CHECK SHEET

Note: Applicants must submit the following materials before being considered for receiving a scholarship award. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| _____ Application form | _____ Essay on Rural Library Services |
| _____ Résumé (Education & Work History) | _____ Letters of Support (3) |
| _____ Community Involvement Statement | _____ Signed Agreement |
| _____ Essay on Purpose & Goals | |

Applicants who have completed the application requirements listed above will be rated on the following criteria:

POINTS	CRITERION
0-10	Potential for academic and employment success (resume)
0-5	Community involvement (examples of community service)
0-20	Successful employment and indication of future employment success (work history, purpose and goals)
0-20	Understanding of rural library issues and needs (rural library services essay)
0-10	Communication skills – written (entire application)
0-5	Recommendations (letters of support)
0-5	Current library position meets employment requirement (application form)
75	Total points possible

CONTACTS: Please submit your scholarship application to the contact in the state of your legal residency.

IDAHO

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MONTANA

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SWIM MLIS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 15, 2010

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